

## **COVID – 19 INFORMATION**

## **Consumer Financial Protection Initiative**

## Are you concerned that an ID thief stole your stimulus payment?

## What to do to protect yourself. How to report it to the IRS and FTC.

Do you think your economic impact payment has landed in the hands of an identity thief? You can report it to the FTC and the IRS at the same time. Here's what to do.

Visit <u>IdentityTheft.gov</u>, the government's one-stop resource for people to report identity theft and get a personal recovery plan. Click "Get started." The next page asks, "Which statement best describes our situation?" Click the line that says, "Someone filed a Federal tax return – or claimed an economic stimulus payment – using my information." You're on your way.

IdentityTheft.gov will ask you some questions so that it can complete an IRS Identity Theft Affidavit (IRS Form 14039) for you, and submit it electronically to the IRS. You can include a personal statement too, to tell the IRS details about how your identity was misused to claim your economic impact payment. You also can download a copy of your completed Affidavit for your files. And, IdentityTheft.gov also will give you a recovery plan with steps you can take to help protect yourself from further identity theft.

Use IdentityTheft.gov to report suspected identity theft only.

If you have **other** concerns about your economic impact payment, visit the IRS's <u>Economic Impact Payment Information Center</u> and <u>Get My Payment Frequently Asked Questions</u> pages for detailed, and frequently-updated, answers to questions. You also can find <u>information here</u> about payments that the IRS may have deposited to an account you don't recognize.

Whether you're waiting for your payment, or even if it's already arrived, keep alert for scammers trying to steal your personal information, your money, or both. Remember, the IRS will not call, text you, email you, or contact you on social media asking for personal or bank account information – even related to the stimulus payments. Also, watch out for emails and texts with attachments or links claiming to have special information about the payments. They're fake, and they may be <a href="mailto:phishing">phishing</a> for your personal information or might download <a href="mailto:m